

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 27, 2008
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Ave, Phoenix

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

George Pettit, Gilbert, Chairman
*Bryant Powell, Apache Junction
John Vater, Avondale
A-Brian Rose, Buckeye
*Gary Neiss, Carefree
*Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek
Jason Crampton for David de la Torre, Chandler
*Mark Smith, El Mirage
Gene Schlecta for Fountain Hills
*Terry Yergan, Gila River Indian Community
Thomas Ritz, Glendale
Katie Wilken, Goodyear
Mark Johnson, Guadalupe
A-Sonny Culbreth, Litchfield Park

*Matt Holm, Maricopa County
Wahid Alam, Mesa
A-Molly Hood, Paradise Valley
Ed Boik for Peoria
Tim Tilton, Phoenix
Dave Williams for Queen Creek
Ruben Guerrero for Bryan Meyers, Salt River Pima-
Maricopa Indian Community
Harry Higgins, Scottsdale
Janice See, Surprise
Sherri Lesser for Lisa Collins, Tempe
A-Steve Boyle for Wickenburg
*Ann McCracken, Valley Metro
*Vince Micallef, Youngtown

* Not in attendance

A - Participated via audioconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jack Tomasik, CAAG
Angela Gotto, CAAG
Randy Simms, CAAG
Jane Poston, Chandler
Howard Ward, Terra Systems SW
Cathy Illian, Census Bureau
Mark Hellfritz, Census Bureau
Jerry O'Donnell, Census Bureau
Angel Roche, Census Bureau
Laura Cummings, Census Bureau
Kelly Taft, MAG

Carlos Jurado, MAG
Heidi Pahl, MAG
Jason Howard, MAG
Rita Walton, MAG
Max Enterline, Phoenix
Tammy Perkins, Phoenix
Shawny Ekadis, Queen Creek
Marnie Schubert, Queen Creek
Jim Chang, School Facilities Board
Vamshee, Surprise

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair George Pettit.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made by the audience.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2008

Harry Higgins moved, Tim Tilton seconded and it was unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of April 22, 2008.

4. On the Road to the 2010 Census

Cathy Illian, Regional Director of the Denver Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau, gave a presentation on the road to the 2010 Census. This presentation signaled the beginning of a concentrated outreach campaign to partner with local officials, community leaders and businesses to ensure an accurate count of the population in 2010. Several other census staff from the Denver Regional Office and Tucson attended.

Ms. Illian discussed how census data are used, the differences from the 2000 Census and the 2010 Census, the American Community Survey (ACS), a timeline of key activities, geographic programs, the role of the partnership specialists, and complete count committees. She distributed several promotional materials including a sample questionnaire.

Howard Ward asked how the Census Bureau will handle the homeless population for the 2010 Census. Cathy Illian replied that group quarters (GQ) operations are divided to count components of the homeless population.

Katie Wilken asked if the Census Bureau had a sample proclamation. Cathy Illian replied yes, that she would send a sample to Heidi Pahl.

Kelly Taft asked if the Census Bureau thinks there is a higher level of fear due to immigration issues that affect Arizona in particular due to its proximity to the Mexico/U.S. border. Cathy Illian responded yes, she thinks there is a higher level of fear and that the issue will be challenging. She explained that the Census Bureau hired several Partnership Specialists to help combat the issue of fear in filling out the census form and sending it to the Bureau. Ms. Illian noted that the Census 2010 questionnaire does not ask for citizenship.

Wahid Alam asked if anything special was going to be done for the seasonal population. Cathy Illian responded that the Census Bureau uses whatever the respondent states on their Census form. She noted that if the respondent says that they were living in Arizona on April 1st and they live in Arizona more than 50 percent of the time, yet they claim another state as their home, the Census Bureau takes their word for it.

Jason Crampton asked if the Census 2010 data will be available at the census tract level. Cathy Illian responded yes and it will also be available at the block group level.

Thomas Ritz asked if the Census Bureau will be tracking or keeping a record of seasonal residents. Cathy Illian replied no, they are counted as a vacant unit; vacant seasonal unit.

George Pettit stated that the Census Bureau's results affect how State funds are distributed. He added that for that reason, the MAG member agencies may be a more cooperative partner than other areas of the US.

5. Census 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program

Tim Tilton said the 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) provides an opportunity to revise Census geography including census tracts, and block groups. He said MAG is coordinating the PSAP and will be serving as a liaison between member agencies and the Census Bureau.

Tim Tilton said the MAG Adhoc POPTAC reviewed Attachment One and recommended approval of the PSAP roles and responsibilities for member agencies, MAG POPTAC, MAG Adhoc POPTAC, MAG staff and Census Bureau. He emphasized the importance of each member agency being responsible for submitting to MAG their changes to block groups and census tracts and that it is incumbent on member agencies to make these changes. Tim Tilton moved to approve the PSAP roles and responsibilities, Harry Higgins seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Tim Tilton said that MAG staff will be meeting in person with Census Bureau staff and himself to discuss boundary and numbering changes, previously discussed at POPTAC, to ensure a consistent and uniform approach for the PSAP.

6. Data Collection for Preparation of July 1, 2008 Arizona Department of Commerce Resident Population Updates

Heidi Pahl noted that MAG submitted to the Arizona Department of Commerce (ADOC), annexations adopted between July 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008 for use in their July 1, 2008 resident population estimates. She thanked everyone for assisting with the data collection of the annexations. Heidi Pahl reported that ADOC will request further data from MAG in the near future. She said annexations adopted between April 1 to June 30, 2008, residential completions through June 30, 2008 and population in group quarters will all be due by the end of July, 2008. She said as soon as the ADOC sends instructions to MAG on when and how they want that done, she will then request this information from the appropriate contact at each member agency.

7. Regional Updates

Rita Walton introduced Hanyi Li, the new Modeling Analyst II in the MAG Information Services Division. Ms. Walton discussed the Regional Economist position, previously held by Jeff Romine and noted that the position has been modified to a Socioeconomic Research and Analysis Program Manager.

Dave Williams mentioned that the Town of Queen Creek General Plan was approved by Council and going to the voters in the Fall 2008.

Tim Tilton noted that Phoenix Parks and Preserves Initiative was approved by 83% of the voters on May 20, 2008. It continues the 1/10 of one percent sales tax for the next 30 years to provide dedicated funding source to preserve Phoenix Sonoran deserts and construct and renovate the city's regional and neighborhood parks.

Brian Rose announced that the Town of Buckeye General Plan was ratified by the voters with an overwhelming 82 percent yes vote.

11. Next Meeting of MAG POPTAC

George Pettit said the next meeting of the MAG POPTAC is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.